

**GALAXY
EXPRESS**



999

TRANSLATOR - HUNK

RAWS - YAKUBA

TYPESETTER / PROOF READER - MEDDLER OF AGES

**TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR LATEST
RELEASES, VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT:
*The Andromeda's Train***



GALAXY EXPRESS 999

松本零士



SGB

Shonen Gahosha Bunko



SGB

Shonen
Gahosha
Bunko

銀河鉄道999 3

松本零士

1-3
590

少年高橋社
文庫



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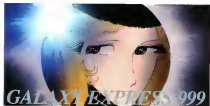
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GALAXY 松本零士 *EXPRESS 999*



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GALAXY EXPRESS ③ 999

松本零士



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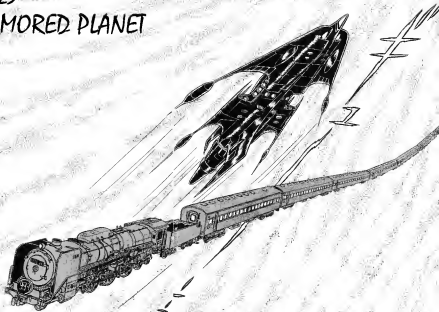
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A black and white illustration of a scroll floating in space. The scroll is rectangular with wavy edges and is held by two vertical ribbons. It is surrounded by dark, nebula-like clouds. A thin, diagonal line, possibly a telescope or a laser beam, cuts across the lower left portion of the image.

SOMETIMES, CLOUDS OF BRIGHT GAS
ARE FLOATING IN THE VOID OF SPACE.
THE BEAUTY OF THESE PLACES
BATHED IN LIGHT IS UNIQUE, BUT
TRAVELLERS WHO ARE GOING
THROUGH THEM ARE ALL
OVERWHELMED BY AN INSECURE
FEELING A FEELING OF THAT BEHIND
THE BEAUTY THERE MIGHT BE
SOMETHING HIDING THE TERROR IS
MAKING THEIR BODIES SHIVER
UNCONTROLLABLY

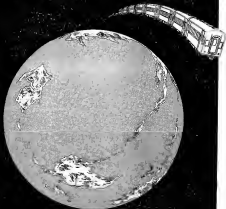
STOP 23
THE ARMORED PLANET





YES. EVEN THE
MATURE HERE
IS PRETTY
CLOUDY.

EVEN THOUGH
THERE IS
NOTHING WRONG
WITH THIS
PLANET!





IT'S NEITHER
TOO HOT OR
TOO COLD. THE
CLIMATE IS
PLEASANTLY
MILD.

YES, IT IS A
BEAUTIFUL
PLACE.







DON'T BOTHER!!
IT WON'T DO YOU
MUCH USE!!!

MAETEL'S
CONDITION IS
SERIOUS!!
DON'T TRY TO
STOP ME!!!











APART FOR THE BATTLE THAT
STALLED HERE, I
CAN'T SEE
ANY MORE.

I MUST
HAVE GONE
AT LEAST 2
OR 3 KILO-
METERS.

10 KILO-
METERS TO THE
EAST.

THE NATURE
OF THIS
PLANET IS SO
DIFFERENT,
IT'S STRANGE.







HOW STRANGE...
THE PALMIRI SAYS THAT
HE'S A HUMAN BEING.
THROUGH ME CLEARLY
WAS THE BODY OF A
SCOTT OR ANDROID.

I FORCED YOU TO INSULT ME! I'M
MADE OF FLESH!! I HAVE HAD THIS
BODY SINCE MY BIRTH!! I'M
NEITHER AN ANDROID, NOR A
ROBOT, NOR EVEN A ROBOTIZED
HUMAN!! MY NAME IS AITALE,
I AM DOCTOR SUBARO'S SON!!

A TRUMAN
MADE OF
FLESH!!
REALLY??





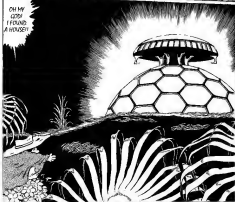


WAAAAAH!!!

SHIT! I'M
FALLING!!















YOU'VE RUN
OUT OF PLACES
TO GO, FODDY!



AH, THE
CLIMB AGAIN?



MAEEL!!

TETSLARON!!
GET
DOWN!!!



WHO THE HELL
ARE YOU?!

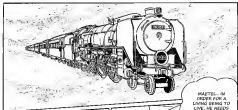












IF NO OTHER
LIVING BEING IS
THE PREY, THEN
NOTHING CAN BE
BORN ON THIS
WORLD.



YES, AND
THEY WILL
FEED HIM.

WAITER— IN
ORDER FOR A
LIVING BEING TO
LIVE, HE NEEDS
SOME OTHER
PERSON TO
SATISFY
HIMSELF.



FROM WHAT
HE COULD
JUDGE
UNITS. NOW.

CIVILIZATION IS
BUILT ON THE
BLOOD OF THE
WEAKEST...



YES IT IS.

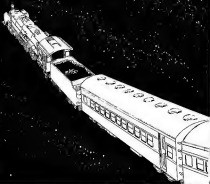
IF IT'S A LAW
OF THE UN-
VERSE, THEN
ALL OF THIS
WORLD IS
REALLY SAD.



I WANTED THE
GLAMOROUS
IDEAL.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE
TWO WHO REMAINED,
HOW MANY LIVING
BEINGS WERE NEEDED
TO BE SACRIFICED?

THE LAW OF THE STRONGEST
SADNESS IS OVERFLOWING IN
TERDORF WHILE HE IS REALIZING THE
EXISTENCE OF ALL THE LIVING
BRANDS IS RELYING ON THE BLOOD OF
VICTIMS. HE DIDN'T WANT ANY MORE
SACRIFICES, BUT THE IDEA OF BEING
A VICTIM WAS EVEN MORE
UNDESIRABLE TO HIM. MEANWHILE,
HAUTEL WAS SILENTLY LOOKING OUT
THROUGH THE WINDOW.



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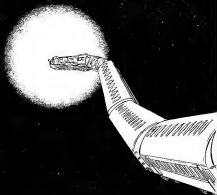
TYPESETTER / PROOF READER - MEDDLER OF AGES

**TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR LATEST
RELEASES, VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT:
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AN EXILED SPACE WARRIOR
ONCE WROTE, "BLOOD FLOWS
WHERE PAIN CAN'T TURN UP
THEIR PASSIONS. THAT IS HOW
IT WORKS IN THE UNIVERSE."

MEANWHILE, THE GALAXY
SURFIDE IS STILL ON ITS WAY
THROUGH THE SEA OF STARS.

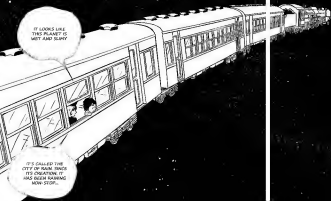


STOP 24

MUD MAETEL

IT LOOKS LIKE
THIS PLANET IS
WET AND SLURRY

IT'S CALLED THE
CITY OF RAIN SINCE
ITS CREATION IT
HAS BEEN RAINING
NOW STOP...





ISN'T ITS
ALWAYS
BEEN
RISING ON
THIS PLANET?

THAT'S RIGHT...
THE SUN HAS
NEVER GAZED
NOT EVEN FOR
A SECOND, AND
MOODY HAS
EVER SEEN
THE SUN...





THEY ARE
CONTINUOUSLY
GROWING IT'S A
TRUE HEAVEN FOR
ALL PLANTS.

THE
PLANTS
ARE
SUPER-
BALLY GOOD



EXACTLY IF YOU
SLAM UP AT THE
SKY WHILE OPENING
YOUR MOUTH, YOU
MIGHT ACTUALLY
DROWN

I ONCE READ A
SHORT STORY
ABOUT A RAINY
FOREST ON
VENUS. IT MUST
HAVE BEEN
LIKE THIS.



ALL WE KNOW IS THAT
THE UNDERGROUND
CONTAINS A LOT OF
ABSORBING CANALS
THAT ARE DRINKING
WATER, BUT WE DON'T
KNOW WHERE IT'S GOING
AFTERWARDS.

WHERE IS ALL
THIS WATER
GOING AFTER
IT FALLS
FROM THE
SKY?





ANYWAYS, THE HOTEL
HERE IS REALLY
ELEGANT.



I WONDER IF
THE INSIDE IS
ALSO FULL OF
WATER.



PLEASE COME
INSIDE WITHOUT
DELAY, MISS
MAYBEL.



IT'S A PLACE WHERE
PLEASANT, EVEN
TEMPERATURES ARE
IDEAL.



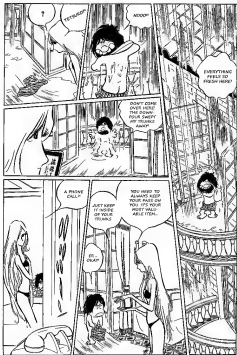
TAKE YOUR TIME,
THE TRAIN DOESN'T
DEPART FOR ONE
WEEK, YOU DON'T
NEED TO BE IN A
HURRY.

YOU KNOW,
I'M GOING
TO TAKE A
SHOWER.



PEOPLE HERE
ARE CLEAN
AND ARE
WELL
MANAGED.

IT FEELS
LIKE I'M HOME OF
A REST-
ROOM.











WHAT? BUT
THERE'S NO
HOUSE HERE!!

IF I KEEP GOING
STRAIGHT, I
SHOULD REACH
THE BOTTOM OF
THE STREET





DAMN IT, AND
AFTER MAETEL
TOLD ME NOT TO
GO NEAR THE
MUD PONDS!!

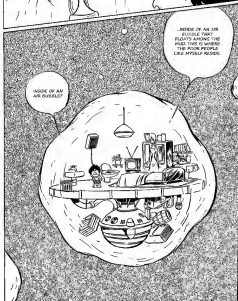
COME HERE
INTO MY
HOUSE!!





I JUST TOLD YOU
WE ARE INSIDE OF
MY HOUSE...

WHERE
AM I?



...INSIDE OF AN AIR
BLADDER THAT
FLOATS AMONG THE
WIND. THIS IS WHERE
THE POOR PEOPLE
LIKE MYSELF RESIDE.

INSIDE OF AN
AIR OUBLET?



AND WHAT IF I TOLD YOU
THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO
STAY HERE? BESIDES, I'LL
BE LEAVING IN ONE
WEEK! I ABSOLUTELY
NEED TO GO BACK...

GO BACK? AND HOW?
WE'RE 200 METERS
UNDER THE MUD, AND I
CAN SEE MY HOUSE
EVEN FURTHER. IF YOU
TRY TO GET AWAY,
YOU'LL DIE FROM THE
PRESSURE.



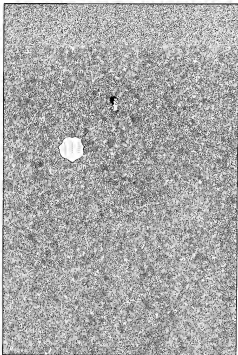


I WANT TO DO
SOMETHING!!!

I'M SO
BORED!!!

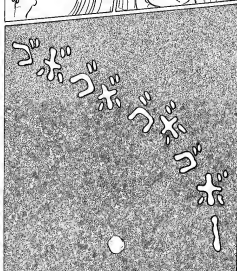




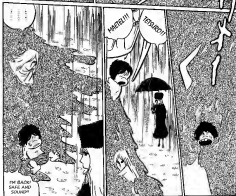
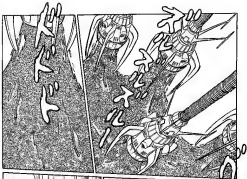




























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FROM AFAR, IT
LOOKS LIKE A
PLANET SIMILAR
TO EARTH JUST
LIKE MANY
OTHERS...

BUT FROM UP
CLOSE, YOU CAN
NOTICE SOME SORT
OF GOLD DUST
MOVING ON THE
SURFACE AT NIGHT...



STOP 25

CITY OF FIREFLIES

THIS PLANET IS
REALLY
MAGNIFICENT
WITH ALL THIS
GOLD DUST ON
ITS SURFACE.



THE PLANET IS AS
ECCENTRIC AS A
DREAM. BUT
STILL, IT IS REAL.

I FEEL LIKE I AM IN
A DREAM. WHAT IS
SWIMMING LIKE THAT?

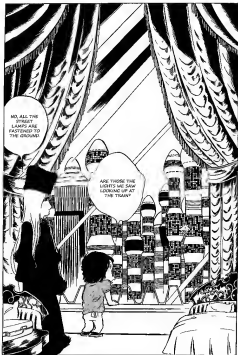
GOOD! WE'LL HAVE THE
CHANCE TO SPEND A
NIGHT HERE! IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE TO TRULY
TAKE IN THIS PLACE
DURING THE DAYTIME!

THE NEXT STOP
WILL BE HARBOR
FRONT. WE WILL
BE STAYING FOR
2 DAYS AND
1 NIGHT...



THAT'S PRECISELY
THE CASE THEY
ARE STARRING AT
THE TRAIN...

IT LOOKS LIKE THE
LIGHT PARTICLES
HEARD THE TRAIN
WRESTLE AND
TURNED TO LOOK
AT US NOW...





THE STANDARD
OF LIVING
SEEMS PRETTY
HIGH HERE

THE
RESIDENTS
HAVE SIMILAR
COMFORTS TO
THE ONES ON
EARTH

BUT HERE THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN RICH
AND POOR IS FAR
CLEARER

PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME...

IT'S ALL
ON ACC-
COUNT OF...

THANK YOU, BUT
WE HAVE ALREADY
CLEANED OUR
CLOTHES WITH THE
AUTOMATIC
WASHING MACHINE
ON THE TRAIN

DID YOU HAVE ANY
CLOTHING THAT
NEED TO BE
WASHED? I CAN
TAKE CARE OF
THEM OR I CAN
TAKE YOUR TRASH
IF YOU WANT







"YOU NEED TO
WORK WITH ALL
YOUR RIGHT TO
EARN A LIVING!"

I NEEDED
MONEY. BUT
MOM WAS
ALWAYS
SAYING...



I WOULD ALSO BE ASHAMED TO
RECEIVE SOMETHING FROM SOMEONE
WITHOUT DOING NOTHING IN RETURN.
I WOULD ONLY HAVE NEEDED TO
WORK IF I NEEDED SOMETHING...



I WOULD HAVE SURELY
PREFERRED DEATH
OVER CHARITY...

EVEN IF MY BODY WAS
PARALYZED BY RAGNOR,
I STILL HAD TO GATHER
MY ENERGY TO KEEP ON
WORKING, TO EARN MY
LIVING BY THE SWEAT
OF MY BROW...



...AND I ALSO
THINK THAT IT'S
MORE FAIR THIS
WAY

THAT'S HOW
MY MOTHER
RAISED ME...

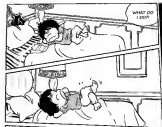


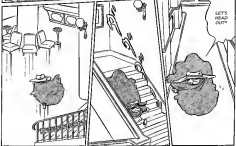
YOU
MOTHER!

I HOPE I
HURRY
HER FEELINGS
TOO MUCH,
MOTHER!

COME UP









THANK YOU,
MAITEL.



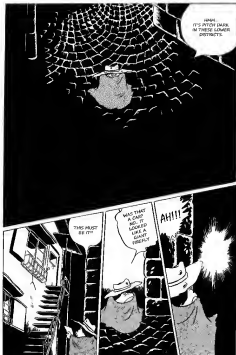
SHE LEFT ME ALONE
SO I WOULDN'T BE
PRESSURED TO STAY
IN THE ROOM.

THAT'S READING A
MAGAZINE. THAT'S
NOT WHAT SHE
TOLD ME SHE WAS
GOING TO DO.



ACCORDING
TO THE MAP,
I MUST GO
THIS WAY.





WAAH...
IT'S UPON DARK
IN THESE LOWER
DISTRICTS.

THAT MUST
BE IT!

WAS THAT
A CARD?
NO! IT
LOOKED
LIKE A
GIANT
FINGER!

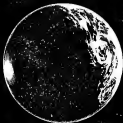
AH!!!







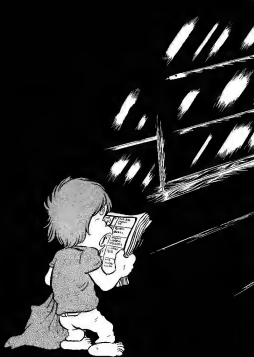




I SEE!! IN THOSE
DARK PLACES,
THE BODIES OF
THIS PLANET'S
PEOPLE SHINE
JUST LIKE
FIREFLIES!!

THE GOLD DUST THAT
I SAW SHINING ON
THE SURFACE OF
THE PLANET FROM
ON THE 444 WAS
ACTUALLY COMING
FROM PEOPLE!!







THE MOST
STRIKING ARE
THE ONES OF
WHICH THEIR
WHOLE BODY IS
BRANDING BURNING.

AND IF YOU EVER
TRY TO LIVE
NORMALLY DESPITE
IT ALL, THE
OTHERS MAKE YOU
LAMENT YOUR
CHOICE...

SO THERE'S
NO CHANCE
I'LL GET A
BETTER JOB
SOMEDAY.

THOSE WITH
AN IRREGULAR
SHINE LIKE
MYSELF ARE
THE MOST
UNATTRACTIVE...



SOMEONE LIKE
YOU WHO
COMES FROM A
WORLD WHERE
NOTHING SAVED
CAN'T
COMPREHEND.



YOU CAN TAKE THE
STORYBOARD WHEN YOU
AND PLEASE BUY IT IF
YOU LIKE IT. I WILL JOIN
YOU AT YOUR HOTEL
TOMORROW.

ALL IS FINE,
YOU CAN GO
BACK HOME.

ABOUT
LOOKS, I
TOOK L...

WOW!
THERE ARE
EVEN
PEOPLE
WHO DON'T
SHINE AT
ALL?

YOU'RE SO
DULL! YOU
CAN'T EVEN
CALL
YOURSELF
"FREAKY"
ANYMORE!
HURRY UP
AND DIE!

SHUT UP! I'M
PERFECTLY
NORMAL ON
MY PLANET!!

I'VE NEVER
HEARD OF
A PLANET
WHERE
PEOPLE
DON'T LIVE
BEFORE!

WAAAA!!!





I CAN SAY
WHATEVER I
WANT. I
DON'T EVEN
LIVE HERE!



WHAT DID
YOU SAY?
I STOP RIGHT
THERE!!



I'M A PASSENGER
OF THE 444, AND
I'M ASKED: KEEP
BOOTHERING ME. I
CAN TAKE YOU
DOWN WITH
ONE SHOT.



WELL,
YOU'RE A
TWO-FELLOW!



I'LL TRY
TO
REMEM-
BER
THIS



IT'S ONLY THEM, BUT
BE MAST OF WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING

YOU'RE FROM
THE 444
GALAXY
EXPRESS 444.



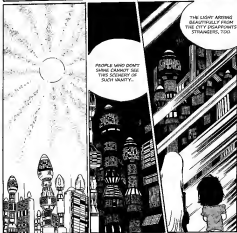
I REALLY
DISPREE
YOUR
PLANET



THIS PLANET
DESERVES
TO BE
COMPLETELY
DESTROYED!!!











SO THAT'S IT? YOU'RE
NOT BUYING IT,
YOU'RE JUST GIVING
ME YOUR CHARITY?



BUT YOU'LL NEED IT
SOMEDAY TO TURN IT INTO
AN ANIME. YOU'LL NEED IT
EVEN IF YOU THINK THAT
YOU HAVE EVERY DETAIL
INSIDE OF YOUR HEAD...

NO, NOT AT ALL!
AS PROMISED, I'VE
BROUGHT YOUR
STORYBOARD.



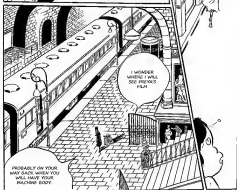
I KNOW THAT
SOMEDAY, I WILL
WATCH IT IN SOME
SPACE THEATER...
THE FILM ABOUT
YOUR CAT FRIEND...

...THEN WHEN YOUR ANIME
IS COMPLETED AND YOU
WON'T NEED IT ANYMORE,
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO
SEND IT TO ME!



MY EYES ARE
ALL RED
BECAUSE I
CRIED SO
MUCH WHEN
READING IT
LAST NIGHT.

...AND I'LL THINK
ABOUT YOU AND THIS
STORYBOARD, AND I
WILL SEND THEM
ONE MORE TIME FOR
THIS CAT!









WHAT YOU NEED
TO SURVIVE IS
COURAGE AND
CONFIDENCE IN
YOUR OWN
ABILITIES...

WHY ARE YOU
LEAVING THIS
PLACE? IN A
LAWLESS GALAXY,
YOUR SHAPING, TALL
BODY AND PRETTY
FACE WON'T BE OF
ANY USE TO YOU



IF YOU FEEL ONLY
ONLY FOR YOUR
LAWLESS, THEN
DON'T EVER LEAVE
THIS PLANET!



THE FACT
IS, HE IS
JUST A
COMMAND.

THAT'S HOW I KNOW HE
WAS THE ONE WHO
SLIPPED INTO ME
YESTERDAY HE NEVER
FOUGHT IN HIS WHOLE LIFE
HE ALWAYS THOUGHT IN
HIS PLACE AS NATURAL



EASY

PLEASE
TAKE THIS,
SETSLAND.



I GET IT PLEASE
STORY I WAS
WRONG, EASY
THERE!



BUT NO...
WAIT... I... NO!



AFTER SOME TIME HAD PASSED, FREYA'S ANIME WAS SHOWN IN THEATERS ON NUMEROUS PLANETS. BEFORE THE FILM'S TITLE CAME ON THE SCREEN, THE FOLLOWING WORDS WERE DISPLAYED:

"I WOULD LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS WORK TO MY CAT AND TO THE GREAT TETSURO AOSHINO. FOR HIS FRIENDSHIP AND COURAGE MANAGED TO INSPIRE ME. I WILL NEVER FORGET HIM."

IT'S STILL UNKNOWN IF TETSURO WAS EVER ABLE TO READ THOSE WORDS!



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IT IS A KNOWN FACT THAT TRAINS
FOLLOW THEIR RAILS WITHOUT
STRAYING. THE SAME COULD BE SAID
FOR THE TRAINS OF THE GALAXY
RAILWAYS WHICH ARE SUPPOSED TO BE
PERFECT.

HOWEVER ON HIS DEATHBED A SPACE
TRAIN ENGINEER CONFESSED
"PERFECTION IS A CONCEPT THAT
CANNOT EXIST IN SPACE".



THE 444 IS
GOING TO
ATTACH AN
ARMORED
WAGON

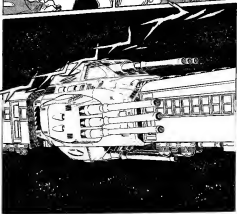
MASTER, WHY
IS THE TRAIN
SLOWING
DOWN?

STOP 26

THE PIRATE SHIP, QUEEN EMERALDAS









IT'S STILL
BETTER
THAN BEING
EXPLODED!

BUT IF
ANYBODY HAS
BASIC, IT'S
KIND OF
POINTERLESS.



THE LIGHTS
ARE SHUT OFF
SO WE CAN'T
BE SEEN.

OR, A
BLADE-
OUT!!



YES, BECAUSE IT'S
EASY TO FACE
PREPARED
HUMANS OR
ANDROIDS...

COULD YOU
PLEASE TO
SAY THESE
PIRATES ARE
HUMAN?



...BUT IT'S
HOPLESS
TRYING
PREDICT
THE SHIFTING
INTENTS OF
HUMANS.



PLEASE FORGIVE MY
INTRUSION, I JUST
WANTED TO LOWER
THE BLINDS...

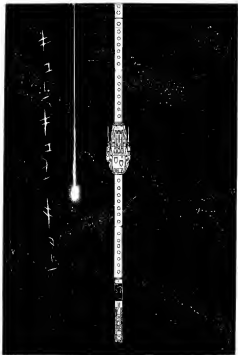
AH, IT'S
JUST YOUR
CONDUCTOR.

WAAH?



OUTSIDE THE
OPPOSITE, WHEN
THE PIRATES DO
APPEAR, IT WILL
BECOME
INTERESTING

IT'S GOING TO
HAVE LOWERED
BLINDS WITHOUT
LIGHT





YOU CAN SEE THEM FROM THE CORRIDOR, AND BETWEEN THE TWO GATES.

I WANT TO SEE THEM.

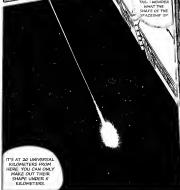


PIRATES ARE CURRENTLY FLYING IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS THE SHIP, BUT FROM BELOW.



WE ARE SURROUNDED BY THE TRAVIS BARRAGE. AIR ISN'T GETTING VACUUMED OUT, EVEN IF THERE IS SOME HOLE...

THAT'S TRUE, I CAN SEE THEM UNDERNEATH.



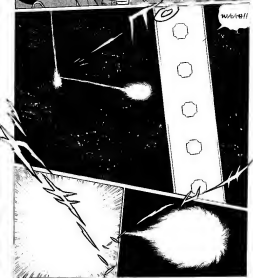
I CAN ONLY SEE SOME DEBRIS WITH A LONG TOOL. I WONDER WHAT THE SHAPE OF THE FRAGRANCE OF

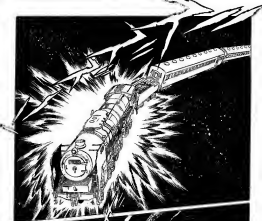
IT'S AT 30 UNIVERSAL KILOMETERS FROM HERE. YOU CAN ONLY MAKE OUT THEIR SHAPE UNDER A TELESCOPE.



I'M GOING TO GO LOOK? I CAN'T HELP IT!

YOU'LL EVENTUALLY SEE THEM FROM UP CLOSE ANYWAY.

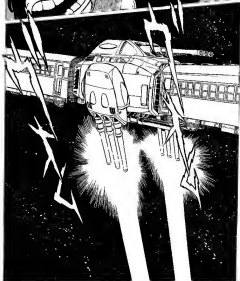




AAAAA... WHATEVER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER
SINCE WE ARE IN AN
APPROXID WAGON!!

OH GOD!!
ROLLING THE
TRAIN AT A
DISTANCE

THIS IS BAD! A
CONTROL DEVICE
HAS BEEN HIT!



IF YOU
PERSIST, I'LL
OBLITERATE
THE WHOLE
TRAIN!!

ALL
RESIST-
ANCE IS
POINT-
LESS!!!

THE RANGE OF
THE CANNONS
ISN'T ENOUGH!!

MY
THREATS

THIS VOICE
BELONGS TO A
FEMALE
WHO IS THAT?

EMERALDAS,
THE PIRATE
QUEEN!!

NOH, I'M
FLIGHTENED!!

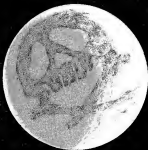
THE FAMOUS
EMERALDAS,
MERCELESS, WHO
HIS NEVER SAID
THAT'S DIE
BLOOD...







HERE'S A DAZZLING
PLANET WITH AN
UNKNOWN ORBIT.



...THE PLANET OF FREEDOM
WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY
IMPOSSIBLE TO LOCATE ON
ANY MAP OF SPACE!



THIS IS FAR
FROM BEING A
SOFT LANDING



MORE THAN LIKELY, THAT
WHICH IS CLOSING IN ON
US IS EMERALDAS'S
PRIVATE SPACESHIP, THE
QUEEN EMERALDAS

A FLYING
OBJECT
APPROX
10000



RESISTANCE
IS POINT-
LESS: YOU
BETTER
COOPERATE...



WHEN THE DESOLATE
SOIL OF JEWEL, THE
PLANET OF PIRATES, IS
SHAWED BY A THICK
CLOUD OF GOLD
POWDER, YOU CAN HEAR
THE QUEEN OPERATORS,
PILOTED BY ITS PIRATE
CAPTAIN, BRUTTING
THE WIND.

PEOPLE SAY THAT
IT'S THE SCREAM OF
THE WITCH BEING
THE SCREEP...



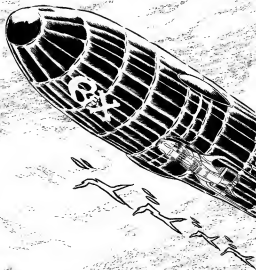
IS THIS THE
QUEEN
EMERALD?

YES, IT'S IN THAT
DANGEROUS SHIP
THAT YOU WILL
FIND THE
FEMALE PIRATE.

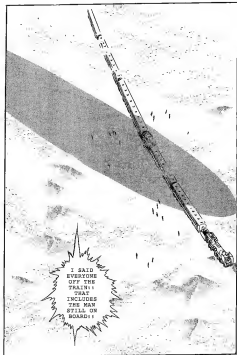
THE FLYING
OBJECT IS
1 KILOMETER
ABOVE US!!!

WHAT SHOULD
WE DO?!

I'M SCARED!!
I'M SCARED!!

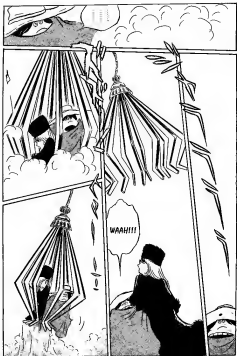


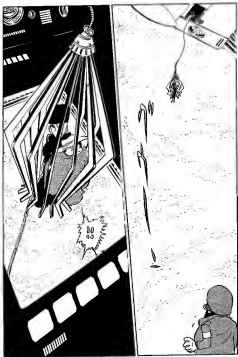






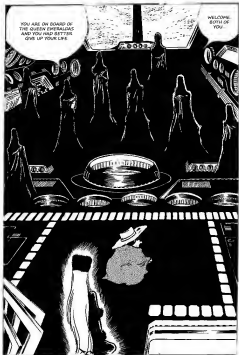






YOU ARE ON BOARD OF
THE QUEEN EMERALD
AND YOU HAD BETTER
GIVE UP YOUR LIFE

WELCOME
BOTH OF
YOU









I WRENT
TALKING TO
YOU! DON'T BE
SO SELF
CENTERED!!



I WAS
TALKING TO
YOU,
PANTHEON!

I'M CHALLENG-
ING YOU
ACCORDING
TO PIRACY
RULES.

YOU ARE NO
MATCH FOR ME,
SHERLOCK! THE
GREAT PIRATE!!



IF YOU WIN
YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO
RETURN TO
THE TRAIN



BUT IF
YOU LOSE...

...YOU WILL HAVE
TO REVEAL YOUR
SECRETS!!



WHAT IS THE REASON
FOR YOU BOARDING
THE GALAXY EXPRESS?

WHAT IS YOUR
TRUE PURPOSE?



HOWEVER, TETSURO HAS
NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT
EVEN IF I LOSE. YOU HAVE
TO PROMISE ME THAT YOU
WILL SET HIM FREE

VERY WELL.
I ACCEPT
YOUR
CHALLENGE



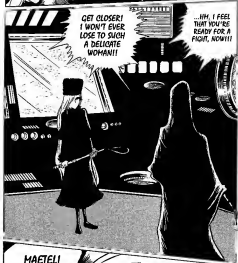
**TELL HIM,
MAETELI!!!**

QUITE THE
OPPOSITE, HE'S
DEEPLY INVOLVED
IN THE MATTER,
MAETELI





BEYOND JUST
HAPPENING TO
BE YOUR...

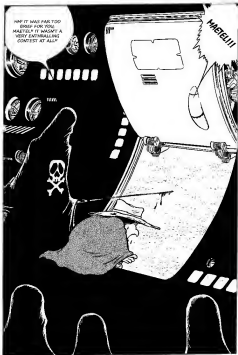


GET CLOSER!
I WON'T EVER
LOSE TO SUCH
A DELICATE
WOMAN!!

...WH, I FEEL
THAT YOU'RE
READY FOR A
FIGHT, NOW!!

HAETELI









IT'S USELESS,
TETTERUP. IF
YOU TRY TO
RESIST, YOU'LL
END UP JUST
LIKE HARTLEP!



RETRIEVE
HARTLEP'S
BODY
FROM THE
SUBJACENT





TETSURO? I NEED
TO SPEAK WITH
YOU. FOLLOW ME
TO MY ROOM...



WE'RE BRINGING HIS
BODY BACK UP AND
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT

MADEL IS DEAD.
IT'S USELESS TO
THINK ABOUT
THE DECEASED...



BUT IF YOU
WANT, I CAN
RESUCE YOU
TO ANSWER
TETSURO?



HOW MANY
TIMES MUST
I TELL YOU
THAT RESIST-
ANCE IS POINT-
LESS?



STEP
INSIDE,
PLEASE



DO YOU WANT
SOME WHISKY? I HAVE
VARIOUS RED OR
WHITE TYPES.

SINCE I HAVE
SPLENDID TASTE,
I THOUGHT THE
QUEEN EMER-
ALDAS INTO MY
FORTRESS.



WHY GO SO FAR AS
GIVING UP ON
YOUR BIOLOGICAL
BODY TO BECOME
ARTIFICIAL?

I NEED TO ASK YOU A
QUESTION YOU SAID
THAT YOU WANT TO GO
TO THE PLACE WHERE
MACHINE BODIES ARE
GIVEN OUT FREELY...

ONCE I ACHIEVE
THIS, I'LL TAKE
CARE OF WHAT I
NEED TO DO ON
EARTH!

BECAUSE I
NEED TO
BECOME
IMMORTAL!!

I NEED TO AVENGE
MY MOTHER, WHO
WAS STUFFED BY
COUNT HIGASHI!!

IT'S STRANGE, BECAUSE
IT'S THE OPPOSITE FOR
ME, I WANT TO LEAVE
THIS ROBOTIC BODY FOR
A HUMAN ONE!

I SEE...

... I HAVE NO
INTEREST IN
THAT EYE-
SORE OF A
BODY YOU
HAVE.

HEL, BUT YOU
NEEDN'T
WORRY,
TETSURO.

THE BODY I
WISH TO
POSSESS IS
NONE OTHER
THAN...

MAETEL'S
PERFECT
BODY!!!



LOOK
OVER
THATSHIP



OH MY
GOD!!!
MAETEL!!!

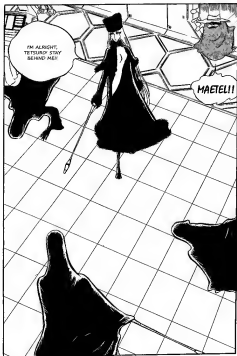
I PLACED HER IN MY
OPERATING CHAMBER. I'M
GOING TO TRANSFER MY
BEING INTO HER BODY...











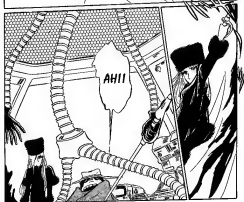




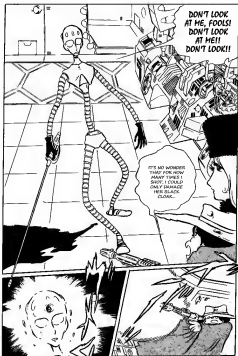
HAETEL, WHY
DID YOU LOSE SO
EASILY DURING
OUR FIRST
BATTLE?

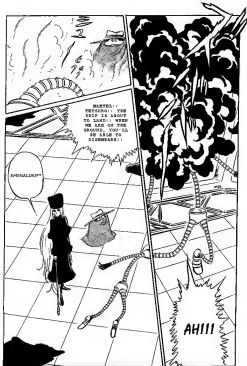


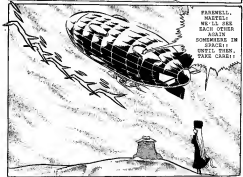
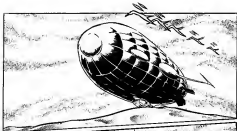
THE TRUTH
OPERATORS
WOULD NEVER
ASH TO KILL ME!



AH!!









THE BEAUTY AND GIFTS OFFERED BY NATURE ARE
GETTING OLD AND WILL EVENTUALLY FADE AWAY. THIS
IS THE FATE OF EVERY LIFE IN THE COSMOS.

ANYBODY KNOWS WHERE EMERALDAS, THE SPACE
PIRATE IS HEADED, BUT FULLY KNOWING THAT SHE
COULD NOT ABANDON HER DESTINY, HARTSEL WILL
NEVER FORGET EMERALDAS AND HER FIERCE FIGHT
AGAINST HER OWN DESTINY...



**GALAXY
EXPRESS**



999

TRANSLATOR - HUNK

RAWS - YAKUBA

TYPESETTER / PROOF READER - MEDDLER OF AGES

**TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR LATEST
RELEASES, VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT:
*The Andromeda's Train***



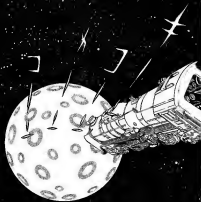
A FAMOUS OUTLAW WHO WAS ONCE AT THE
HEIGHT OF CONVERSATION, DECLARED, "SINCE
MY HEART IS PURE, FAIR, AND BEAUTIFUL,
I'LL LIVE IN SPACE IN A PURE, FAIR, AND
BEAUTIFUL WAY!"

THEN, AS THE OUTLAW WAS HUNG FOR HIS
CRIMES, THOSE WHO THOUGHT THEMSELVES
PURE, FAIR, AND BEAUTIFUL, APPLAUDED
WHILE CONGRATULATING THE OUTLAW'S
EXECUTION.



STOP 27

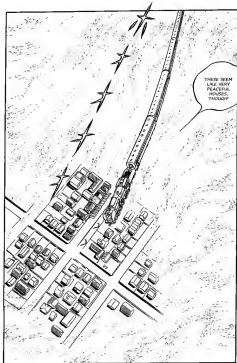
THE COUNTRY OF ATONEMENT

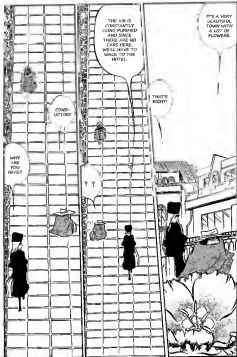


HAZEL? CAN'T YOU
HEAR SOME BELL
CHIME COMING FROM
THIS PLANET?

ITS INHABITANTS
HAVE TURNED
ACOUSTIC WAVES
INTO QUANTUM
TUNING FORKS THAT
CAN EVEN BE
SENSED IN SPACE

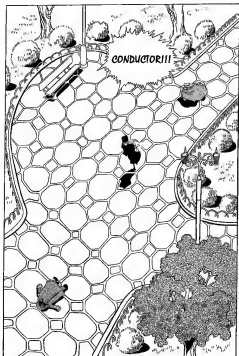




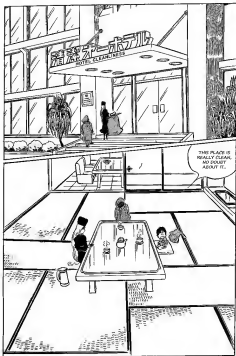














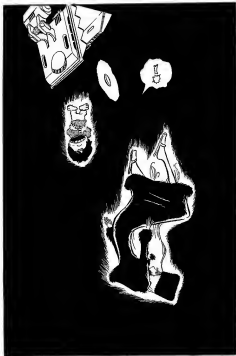


PERHAPS
THERE IS
NOTHING AT
ALL BENEATH
THAT GARISH



WELL,
RECALING











AMMMY NO,
DON'T COME IN!
PLEASE DON'T
OPEN THE DOOR!!
DON'T LOOK AT
ME!!

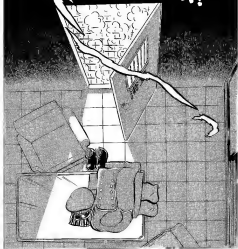


STOP!!!!



IM A MEMBER
OF THE JSA
SERVING SAC-
CESSFULLY TO THE
CONTROL OF
CLEANLINESS.

АННННННННН!!!





AGENT G FROM THE
14th SERVICE BCO-
ORDING HAS ENTERED
THE BATHROOM WHERE
THE CONDUCTOR IS.
EVERYTHING IS GOING
ACCORDING TO PLAN...

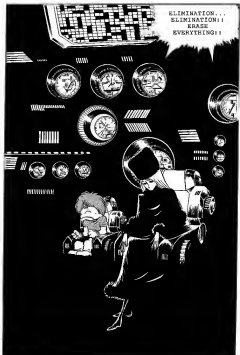
SAID CASE
TWO TO THE
ELIMINATION
CHAMBER...

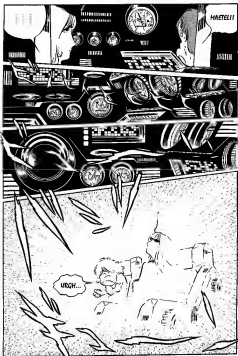






ELIMINATION...
ELIMINATION!!
ERASE
EVERYTHING!!







PERFECT,
EJECT
THEM!



YES...
YES!

ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?



THEY
WILL
BE
SAFE



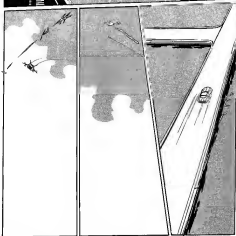


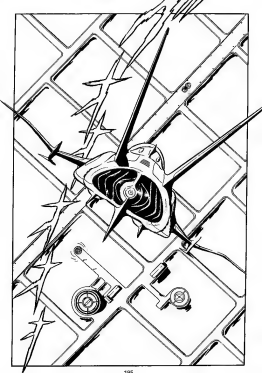
LET'S GET
BACK TO THE
HOTEL CLEAN-
LINE!!

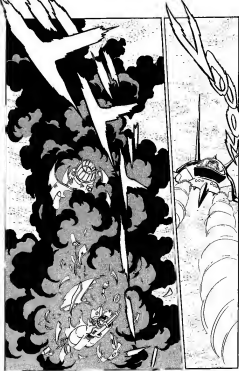


THEY ARE A
DANGER TO US!
WE NEED TO
ELIMINATE
THEM!!

DAMN THE
MURDER
FOMENTING
HADN'T
MOVED ON
THESE TWO!!









TETSURO!!



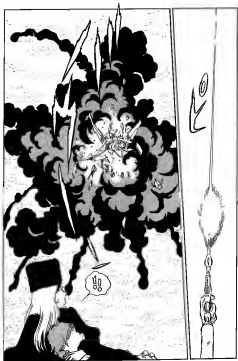
HAETEL!!

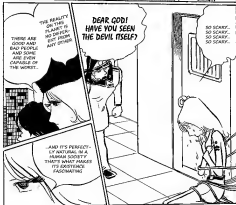


I HOPE
THAT I
CAN PRO-
TECT YOU!

BUT WHAT ARE
WE GOING TO
DO IF THEY
COME BACK?











WE TRY TO
MAKE AN IM-
PRESSION ON
US WITH
PROMISES.

THEY CAN'T DO A
THING TO US AS
LONG AS WE ARE ON
THE GALAXY
EXPRESS. ALL THEY
CAN DO.



FAREWELL, SAINTS
LIVING ON A PLANET
THAT IS MAINTAINING
A PURE, FAIR, AND
BEAUTIFUL LIFE...!!



FAREWELL
PURE, FAIR,
AND BEAUTI-
FUL BEINGS



YOU'LL LIVE IN
THIS HELL
FOREVER!



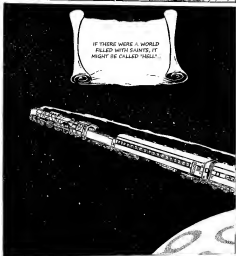
WE'RE
BEGGING
YOU!!!

DON'T DAMAGE THE
REPUTATION OF OUR
WONDERFUL PLANET!



PLEASE DON'T REVEAL
THAT YOU'VE BEEN
ASSAULTED BY A THIEF!

AND
PLEASE...



**GALAXY
EXPRESS**



999

TRANSLATOR - HUNK

RAWS - YAKUBA

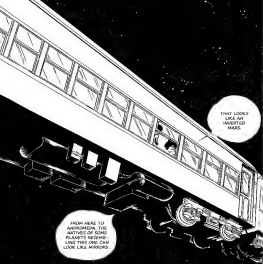
TYPESETTER / PROOF READER - MEDDLER OF AGES

**TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR LATEST
RELEASES, VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT:
*The Andromeda's Train***



NOBODY LIKES TO SEE
THEIR OWN FLAWS OR TO
BE BLAMED FOR THEM.
HOWEVER, IN THE COOKIES
THERE ARE A MUST
AMOUNT OF ABERRATIONS THAT
REFLECT OUR VULNER-
ABILITY" - OPERATOR
TRAINING, SPACE WARRIOR



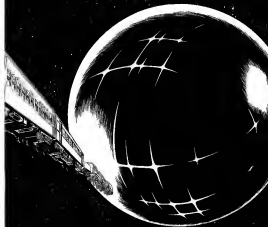


THAT LOOKS
LIKE AN
INVERTED
MARS.

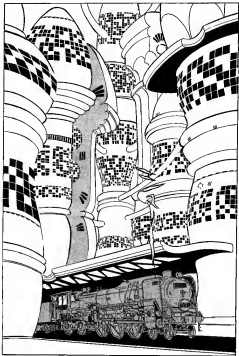
FROM HERE TO
ANDROMEDA, THE
ACTIVES OF SOME
PLANETS BESEEM
LIKE THIS ONE: CAN
LOOK LIKE MIRRORS.

STOP 28

IDLE ONE'S MIRROR

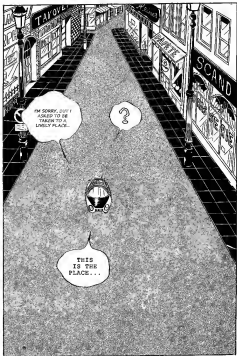












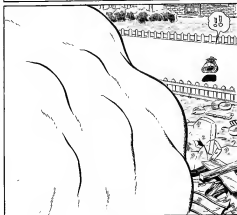
















LATELY, FOOD
ISN'T REALLY
SATISFACTORY.

I TOOK
ON SOME
WEIGHT
AGAIN.

REBUILDING HAS
BEGUN. LET'S ASK
FOR A VISUALLY
STRIKING HOUSE!

ONE OF THE
PILARS OF
MY HOUSE
WAS
ROTTERING
ME, BUT IT'S
STILL HERE!

YOUR SKIN HAS
GOTTEN BALK.
ITS SPRING
APPEARANCE
WASN' GETTING
THROUGH...



**GALAXY
EXPRESS**



999

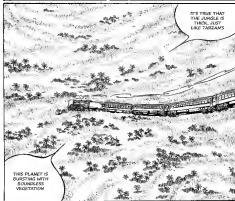
TRANSLATOR - HUNK

RAWS - YAKUBA

TYPESETTER / PROOF READER - MEDDLER OF AGES

**TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR LATEST
RELEASES, VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT:
*The Andromeda's Train***





STOP 29

SAKEZAN'S CONTINENT



"IF A MAN COULD LIVE IN COMPLETE PRISON, HE WOULD UNDERSTAND THE HAPPINESS OF ALL HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCERN GOOD FROM EVIL."

-PLANETUSIA PAPILLONET, AN ESCAPEE FROM A SPACE PRISON









EVERY LIVING
CREATURE IS OUR
COUNTRY. DON'T BE
SO PICKY.

AMAZING! THEY'RE
THE ONES WHO
MADE IT...



SARUMAN IS
REALLY PICKY
ABOUT THE
TASTE OF
ALCOHOL.



DELICIOUS

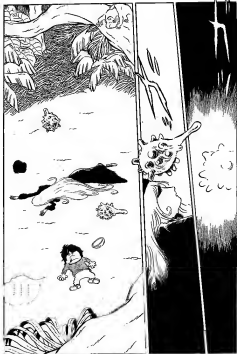


IN THE END,
THIS PLACE IS
FAIR MORE
AMUSING THAN
I THOUGHT.



IT'S GLADLY
TAKEN MORE!





MONKEY ALCOHOL
ALL FOR SAKEZAN.
THIEVES MAKE
SAKEZAN ANGRY.







THERE ARE
MONKEYS
EVERY-
WHERE
HERE!

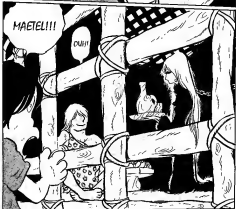




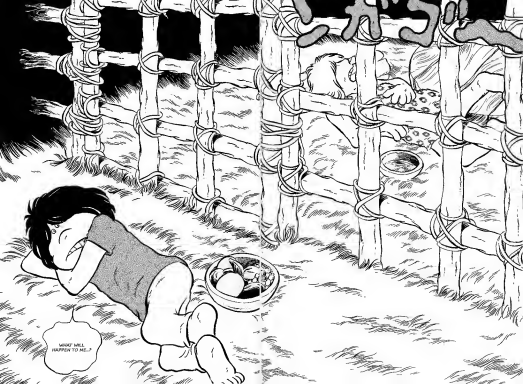












WHAT WILL
HAPPEN TO ME...?









THANKFULLY, THE
PROBLEMS ARE
PASSED OUT DRINK...

WE MANAGED TO
ESCAPE. NOW WE
NEED TO RETURN
TO THE 444 AND
GET MY CLAW!

FOR
COMMON
PEOPLE,
IT'S HARD
TO GO
OUT LIKE
TARZAN

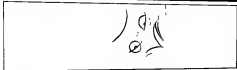
SAKEZAAAAAAAAAAN!









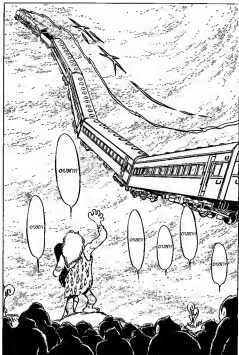














WARRIOR MEN ARE
SPREAD OUT ALONG
THE UNIVERSE, BUT
ALL OF THEM AGREE
ON THE FACT THAT
ONLY SAREGAN IS A
TRUE PAUL.

**GALAXY
EXPRESS**



999

TRANSLATOR - HUNK

RAWS - YAKUBA

TYPESETTER / PROOF READER - MEDDLER OF AGES

**TO FIND OUT ABOUT OUR LATEST
RELEASES, VISIT US ON FACEBOOK AT:**
The Andromeda's Train



"I'VE ALWAYS HATED THE RAIN.
EVERY TIME IT'S RAINING, I FEEL
DEJECTED AND I DON'T FEEL LIKE
DOING ANYTHING. I WISH I COULD
LIVE MY OLD DAYS ON A WORLD
WHERE IT NEVER RAINS."

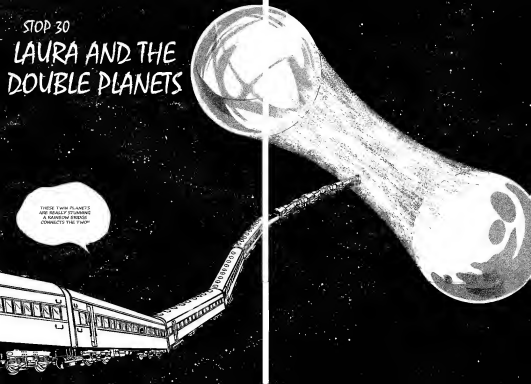
—ARRODOR KAWAHIRA, SPACE
HUNTER WHO DIED WHILE FIGHTING
AGAINST 3 MAGELLAN SOLDIERS.

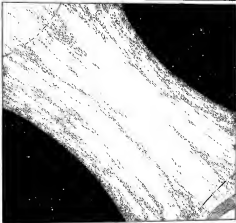


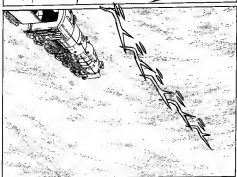
STOP 30

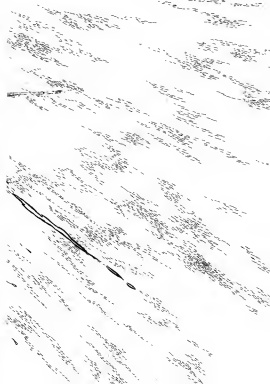
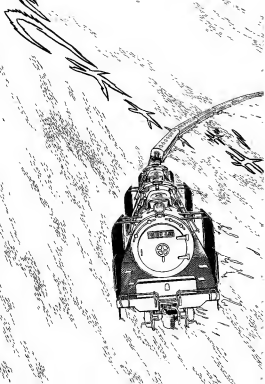
LAURA AND THE DOUBLE PLANETS

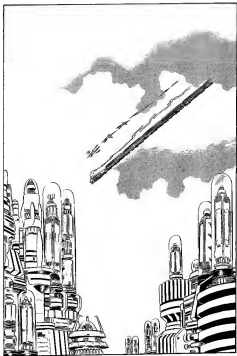
THESE TWIN PLANETS
ARE REALLY STUNNING
A RAINBOW BRIDGE
CONNECTS THE TWO!













TETSURO... WE HAVE NO NEED
TO GET OFF THE TRAIN, BUT I
WOULD LIKE TO SHOW YOU
SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE
YOU THINK BEFORE GETTING
A ROBOTIC BODY



I'LL DO
MY BEST...

...AS YOU HAVE
SEEN SINCE
YOUR BIRTH

WILL YOU BE ABLE
TO DO THAT WHILE
YOU'RE A HUMAN
MADE OF FLESH...

BUT YOU HAVE
TO PROMISE ME
THAT YOU WILL
REMAIN CALM...



THE
REASON
I
WANT
TO
SEE
YOU
IS
BECAUSE
I
WANT
TO
KNOW
WHAT
YOU
ARE
THINKING



IS THIS
PLACE THAT
TREASON-
BROOD

LET'S GO,
TETSURO! I'VE
LOADED SOME
HIGH CALIBER
ENERGY
ROUNDS...

I'LL TAKE A
WEAPON,
EVERYTHING
WILL BE FINE!

BUT MISS
MAGNET...

IS THAT
A FACT?

EVERY ADVANTAGE
YOU'LL FACE ARE
FULLY MECHANIZED
EXCEPT FOR THEIR
ORGANS.

I FEEL LIKE I HAVE
BEEN SHOWN
DOWN AND PUT
INTO A MACHINE!

IT'S AS IF THE
ANDROIDS
PROPER TO BE
SURROUNDED BY
OTHER MACHINES.







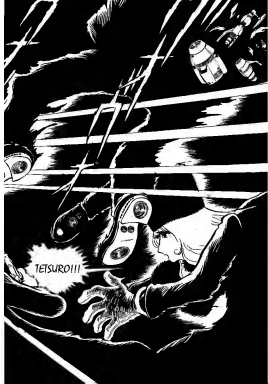


BEAUTIFUL
AND
MECHANIZED
WOMEN ARE
GREAT!!!

IT WILL MAKE A
FINE STUFFED
OBJECT!!!

MAE
TEL!!!









I WISH THIS
PLANET WOULD
BE DESTROYED
FOREVER!!



YES?

MAITEL

HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN
WHAT YOUR
MOTHER ASKED
OF YOU?



WILL NEWLY
MECHANIZED
HUMANS ACT
LIKE THAT
COUNT REBEL?

DO WE ALL
BECOME LIKE THIS
WHEN WE BECOME
MECHANIZED?



MAITEL

WELL...



HANG ON,
HAETEL!!!



THE LABYRINTH PROGRAM
OVERRODE FORMULA... THE
ONE I FAILED TO GIVE
YOU... IT SEEMS TO BE
DIAGNOSING WITH ME...



WHEN YOU
BECOME A
MACHINE
HUMAN...

WHEN YOU
BECOME
RECHARGED...



IN FACT, THERE'S
ANOTHER GOAL...
ANOTHER GOAL THAT...



WHETHER HUMAN BEINGS
BECOME CYBORGES... OR
BETTER, WHEN THEY ARE
FORCED TO BECOME ONE...



HAETEL!!!













MY NAME IS
LAURA. I'M A
DOCTOR AND I
HAVE MADE
QUITE A NAME
FOR MYSELF



IN MY HOUSE. I HEARD YOU
SAID THAT YOU DRANK A
GLASS HYDROGEN
OVERSIDE, BUT IT SEEMS
YOUR BODY DIDN'T LIKE IT

WHERE
AM I?



THE BOY WHO'S
MADE YOU
SCREAMED OUT...
TETSURO...
HE'S STILL
UNCONSCIOUS.

WAS
THERE A
YOUNG...



HIS HEART HADN'T BEEN
DIRECTLY HIT. THE
ENERGY SOUND WENT
THROUGH HIS BODY
WITHOUT EXPLODING.

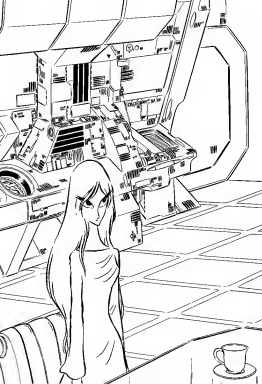


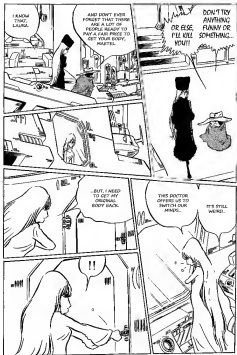


WASABI
April 17

THE BLOOD
PRESSURE MIGHT
INCREASED TOO
MUCH... MY SENSE
ARE FADING A
LITTLE, BUT
EVERYTHING WENT
WELL.







I KNOW
THAT,
LALALA.

AND DON'T EVEN
FORGET THAT THERE
ARE A LOT OF
PEOPLE READY TO
PAY A FARM PRICE TO
GET YOUR BODY,
MAILED.

DON'T TRY
ANYTHING
FUNNY OR
SOMETHING...
OR ELSE,
I'LL KILL
YOU!!

...BUT, I NEED
TO GET MY
ORIGINAL
BODY BACK.

THIS DOCTOR
OFFERS US TO
SWITCH OUR
MINDS.

IT'S STILL
WEIRD.



IT'S
GETTING
WARMER.

ALL OF THE
DOORS ARE
LOCKED.



IT'S AS IF I'M
INSIDE OF A
SALON.



ALL FREEDOM IN
THE 44th DIS-
TRICT, HEAD TO
THIS AREA.

DOCTOR JARIN'S
OFFICE PERFORMANCE
IS IMPROVING ALL OF
A SUDDEN!



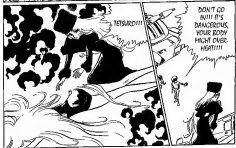
LIKE I CARE...

BUT
TETSUO'S
MIND IS
STILL IN IT!



I PREPARED
TO DISPOSE
OF MY OLD
BODY.

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE,
LADY?







EVEN IF I HAVE
SHORT LEGS AND
I'M NOT THAT
HANDSOME, I
PREFER MY BODY



I WANT
MY BODY!!!

NO
WAY!!!



IT CONTAINS THE
MEMORIES OF ALL
THE EXPERIENCES
I'VE LIVED SO FAR!



THE BODY THAT
MY PARENTS
GAVE ME, THEIR
BLOOD IS RUN-
NING THROUGH
MY VEINS!



I WOULD
NEVER
EXCHANGE
IT!!!







YOU
SAID TO
US...

I'M GOING TO
TAKE HAREL'S
BODY, AND
WE'LL TRAVEL
TOGETHER!!

IT'S MY
TURN
NOW!!!



HAREL

CLOSE YOUR
EYES, TETSURO!!



I WISH FOR IT TO
DISAPPEAR
FOREVER!!

I HATE THIS PLANET
FROM THE BOTTOM
OF MY HEART



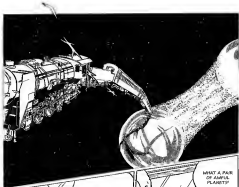
I WON'T
FORGET THOSE
WHO HURT
THE HEARTS OF
OTHERS!

I WANT ALL ITS MECHA-
NIZED INHABITANTS WHO
TOY WITH BODIES AND
MINDS OF PEOPLE TO BE
ELIMINATED FOREVER!!









WHAT A PAIR
OF AMPHIBI-
PLANETS!

THEY AREN'T
HUMANS
ANYMORE...

AFTER THEIR
REHABILITATION,
DO ALL PEOPLE
BECOME LIKE THAT?



YES. MONSTERS
MADE BY SCIENCE,
TETRAPOD



INSTEAD, THEY
ARE MONSTERS!

...AND THEY
AREN'T
MACHINES,
EITHER.



WELL...

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

SHOULD I
REALLY BECOME
A CYGNET?

BUT WITH A RECOM-
MENDED BODY THAT
LASTS SEVERAL
MILLENNIUMS, YOU CAN
GO ON A LOT OF
ADVENTURES, THEN

HEM CAN LIVE AT BEST
ABOUT 100 YEARS..
IN THE END, THEY
DON'T FEEL MUCH
DURING THEIR LIVES..

..UNTIL THE
DAY YOU GET
A MACHINE
BODY

I WILL
ALWAYS BE
BY YOUR
SIDE..

THE ROAD IS
STILL LONG, YOU
HAVE PLENTY
OF TIME TO
THINK IT OVER

BUT.. I REALLY
WONDER WHICH
OPTION I SHOULD
CHOOSE..

ERR.. YES, YES?
YOUR TOO,
PARTLY?

YOUR BODY'S
MARCH IS
REALLY
PLEASANT!

YES!

TETSURO.

AH!!!





TO THE GREATEST JOY OF FANS OF ANIMATION, THE JAPANESE DIRECTOR RINTARO WAS PRESENT AT THE IMAGINA FESTIVAL IN BRUXELLES. THROUGH A LONG INTERVIEW, WE OFFER YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCOVER THIS ARTIST WHOSE CAREER IS, AMONG OTHERS, A SERIES OF MEETINGS WITH LEIJI MATSUMOTO'S WORKS, FROM "GALAXY EXPRESS 999" TO "CAPTAIN HARLOCK". HERE'S THE SECOND PART, WHERE WE UNDERSTAND BETTER THE IMPORTANCE OF A CERTAIN OSAMU TEZUKA IN RINTARO'S CAREER.

IN THE END, YOU ONLY TOOK PART ON 3 FULL-LENGTH FEATURE ANIMATION MOVIES BEFORE MEETING OSAMU TEZUKA ?

RINTARO:

3 MOVIES IN 3 YEARS, WHILE DISNEY WAS SPENDING UP TO 3 to 4 YEARS ON A SINGLE 70 TO 80 MINUTES CARTOON! IT SHOWS HOW THE WORK WAS CHALLENGING AT TOEI STUDIOS, WHERE DESPITE EVERYTHING, WE WERE TRYING OUT BEST TO MATCH THE "AMERICAN STANDARDS".

CAN YOU SAY THAT THE TEZUKA REVOLUTION (THROUGH HIS STUDIO, MUSHI PRODUCTIONS) WAS ALREADY ON THE WAY?

RINTARO:

INDEED, WE WERE LOOKING AT WHAT WAS GOING ON ELSEWHERE. WE DID NOTICE THAT IN THE U.S., HANNA-BARBERA STUDIOS WERE PRODUCING FOR TV. THEY SYSTEMATIZED AN EVOLUTION STARTED BY DISNEY. WHEN YOU MENTION THE LATTER, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT TO THINK ABOUT ITS PRESTIGIOUS PRODUCTIONS, WHILE MOST OF ITS STUDIOS ACTIVITIES WAS USED FOR CHEAPER PRODUCTIONS. IT WAS, IN PARTICULAR, CARTOONS MEANT FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. THE CHARACTERS' OUTLINE WAS SKETCHY, AND THE ANIMATION WAS ALL ABOUT COST SAVINGS. WILLIAM HANNA AND JOE BARBERA, WHO WERE COMING FROM TRADITIONAL ANIMATION DEVELOPED IN "TOM & JERRY", WERE THE FIRST, IN AMERICA, TO UNDERSTAND THAT TELEVISION WILL BECOME A BIG CONSUMER OF KID'S SHOWS. BUT TELEVISION WAS PAYING BADLY FOR A GOOD QUALITY TRADITIONAL ANIMATED PRODUCTION.

SO IT WAS ECONOMICAL CRITERIA THAT LED HANNA BARBERA TO SIMPLIFY ANIMATION: SKETCHY SCENERIES, PARTIAL ANIMATION OF CHARACTERS, LONGER SEQUENCE SHOTS, USE OF THE SAME DRAWING FOR 3 OR 4 IMAGES, ZOOMS, ETC. TOEI HAD OBSERVED CAREFULLY THIS EVOLUTION AND WANTED TO TAKE EXAMPLE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE A MOVIE IN 1 YEAR.

IT WASN'T ONLY ABOUT ECONOMICAL CRITERIA WHICH PROVE THE FIRST PRODUCTIONS OF OSAMU TEZUKA?

RINTARO:

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THEY WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. BUT TEZUKA CREATED FIRST AN AESTHETIC; THEN HE WONDERED HOW HE COULD BRING THEM TO LIFE ECONOMICALLY.

YOU KNOW, TEZUKA HAD NOTHING TO PROVE: HE WAS ALREADY A RENOWNED ARTIST IN THE FIELD OF MANGA SINCE 1947. HE WAS A TRUE LEADER AND IT'S NOT EXAGGERATED TO SAY THAT, WITHOUT HIM, MANGA WOULDN'T HAVE BECOME WHAT WE KNOW IT AS TODAY. YOU COULD EXPECT THAT TEZUKA WAS LOOKING FOR ADAPTING HIS MANGAS INTO ANIME, ACCORDING TO TRADITIONAL CRITERIA OF THIS FORM OF CINEMATOGRAPHY. HE HAD THE MODESTY AND THE HUMILITY OF THE GREAT ARTISTS TO MAKE EVERYTHING FROM SCRATCH WHEN HE STARTED THE 193 EPISODES OF ASTRO BOY.

THE CHALLENGE WAS HUGE...

RINTARO:

INDEED! WE HAD TO PROVIDE AN EPISODE OF 20 MINUTES EVERY WEEK!

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE AESTHETIC CHALLENGE THAT DIRECTED THE CREATION OF ASTRO BOY?

RINTARO:

WE HAD TO PROVIDE AS MUCH WHILE DOING LESS. IN OTHER WORDS, BRINGING A QUALITY THAT COULD MATCH WITH ANYTHING THAT EXISTED AT THE TIME, WHILE USING TECHNIQUES MUCH CHEAPER.

EXPLAIN WHY A GIANT LIKE TEZUKA ACCEPTED TO ENTRUST THE REALIZATION OF ASTRO BOY TO AN UNKNOWN PERSON WHO WASN'T EVEN RINTARO YET.

RINTARO:

I WAS ESPECIALLY DARING, AS EXPECTED FROM THE YOUTH! ASTRO BOY WAS A CULT MANGA, WHO EXISTED SINCE 1955. IT WAS A DREAM TO BE ABLE TO BRING LIFE TO SUCH A POPULAR CHARACTER. AND THEN, DON'T FORGET THAT I WAS ONLY IN CHARGE OF THE REALIZATION OF 1 EPISODE, THE 4TH, OF THE 1st SEASON [ASTRO BOY'S BROADCASTING STRETCHED FROM JANUARY 1st, 1963 TO DECEMBER 31st, 1964]. BUT IT HAPPENS THAT, FROM THE AGE OF 13, I WAS GLUED TO EVERYTHING RELATED TO ANIMATION, BOTH IN CINEMA AND ADVERTISING. AND IT HAPPENS THAT I NEVER COULD HAVE WATCHED A CARTOON WITH A NON CRITICAL EYE. I UNDERSTOOD QUITE FAST THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE, THE HABITS AND THE SPECIFICITIES OF THE GREAT OCCIDENTAL CREATORS. IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE CHALLENGE ACCEPTED BY TEZUKA COULD EXIST BY REFLECTING ON THE WORK METHOD BOTH NEW AND INHERITED FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED EVOLUTIONS. IT PLEASED MASTER TEZUKA AND HE DECIDED TO GIVE ME A CHANCE.

HOW WAS A WEEKLY REALIZATION OF AN EPISODE WORKING THROUGH?

RINTARO:

TEZUKA HAD ESTABLISHED A COMPLETE SYNOPSIS OF THE SERIES, BUT ONLY FOR THE 1st EPISODES, AS LONG AS WE HAD WORKED ON THESE EPISODES, WE COULD MANAGE TO SUPPORT IT THEREAFTER. IT HAS HAPPENED THAT WE BROUGHT THE WEEKLY EPISODE A FEW DOZEN OF MINUTES BEFORE ITS BROADCASTING!

IN REALITY, YOU HAD TO CREATE EVERYTHING?

RINTARO:

NOTHING EXISTED IN THE FIELD OF ANIME ON TELEVISION. THERE WERE NO RULES, NO PROCEDURES, NO METHODS. WE WERE USING EACH OF OUR SKILLS, TRYING TO PUT THINGS TOGETHER AND MATCH EVERYTHING. I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT TEZUKA HAD A THING TO STIMULATE A TEAM.

COMPLETING 30 MINUTES OF ANIMATION EVERY WEEK. WHAT KIND OF CONSTRAINTS DID IT BRING?

RINTARO:

FIRST, WE HAD TO FORGET ABOUT THE 24 IMAGES PER SECOND. WE HAD TO MULTIPLY FIXED PLANS. AT THIS OCCASION, WE UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF VOICE, OF ELOCUTION, THAT COULD COVER FOR THE STATIC PART OF SOME SEQUENCES. WE ALSO LEARNED TO REDUCE SOME SCENARIOS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. WE WERE USING CONVERGENCE LINES TO STIMULATE THE FLIGHT OF ASTRO BOY. WE INTRODUCED SMASHED ONES, WE USED ZOOM ON FACES. ALL OF THESE WERE BORN DURING THE 1st 13 EPISODES OF ASTRO BOY!

A DISNEY-LIKE CHARACTERISTIC WHICH WASN'T USED BY TEZUKA IS THE 4 FINGER HANDS!

RINTARO.

YES, EVEN ASTRO BOY POSSESSES 8 FINGERS. UNLIKE WHAT THE DIRECTORS OF DISNEY SAY, I DON'T THINK THAT DRAWING 8 FINGERS IS HARDER OR MORE COMPLICATED THAN USING 4 FINGER CHARACTERS. NOTE THAT IN SOME EPISODES, ASTRO BOY DOES POSSESS ONLY 4 FINGERS! IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN ALLOW YOURSELF IN AN ANIME, WHERE IMAGES ARE SCROLLING IN A SERIES FOR BABIES, LIKE WANPAKU OMUKASHI KUM KUM. CHARACTERS HAVE BARELY DRAWN HANDS. BUT, IN GENERAL, IN MANGAS, HANDS WITH 4 FINGERS WOULD BECOME A PARTICULARITY OF THE RELATED CHARACTER. JUST LIKE HANDS WITH SIX FINGERS CAN SOMETIMES GET A RELIGIOUS SIGN OF PREDESTINATION.

LET'S GET BACK TO THE AESTHETIC YOU CREATED FOR YOUR PRODUCTIONS, ALL IN ALL CHEAP, OF ANIMES. HAVEN'T YOU FELT THAT IT HARMED THE QUALITY OF SOME PRODUCTIONS WHICH CAME AFTER?

RINTARO.

IT'S NOT MY ROLE TO JUDGE WHAT HAS BEEN DONE BY OTHER STUDIOS, BUT PRECISELY, I BELIEVE THAT IT'S THE OCCASION WHEN YOU CAN SPEAK ABOUT SENSE OF AESTHETIC. TEZUKA HAD ONE. HE WAS REALLY DEMANDING ABOUT IT. WE WERE TALKING A LOT BEFORE STARTING AN ACTUAL WORK OF PRODUCTION. MASTER WAS GIVING US HIS DIRECTIONS AND WE HAD TO FOLLOW THEM. AS LONG AS WE WOULD RESPECT THOSE ARTISTIC CRITERIA, I THINK THAT FAST ANIMATION CAN SUPPORT THE COMPARISON WITH MORE SOPHISTICATED PRODUCTIONS. IF, CONSEQUENTLY, FOR SOME REASON I BELIEVE ENTIRELY COMMERCIAL, SOME FELT THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR RIGOROUS ARTISTIC REQUIREMENTS, I HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. BUT THE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ANIME ALL RESPECT WITHOUT EXCEPTION SOME SORT OF AESTHETIC "SPECIFICATIONS", JUST THE WAY THE PIONEER TEAM OF ASTRO BOY DEVELOPED SOME. I WOULD ADD THAT TEZUKA WAS A WONDERFUL STORYTELLER. HE KNEW HOW TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT, HOW TO GIVE CREDIBILITY TO HIS CHARACTERS AND TO THE ADVENTURES THEY WERE LIVING. WE WORKED A LOT ON FRAMING AND THE DRAMATIC INTENSITY THAT COULD INCUR A FIXED IMAGE. THAT IS WHAT MADE THE IMMEDIATE SUCCESS OF ASTRO BOY.

(END OF PART 1 / WORDS GATHERED BY ALAIN DE KUYSSCHE DURING ANIMA FESTIVAL IN BRUXELLES.)